

About the Mini-Conference on Aging and Disability

Disability & Aging: Seeking Solutions to Improve Health, Productivity, and Community Living is an officially designated mini-conference of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). As has been the practice for nearly half a century, the WHCoA is being convened to develop and provide insight and recommendations on aging policy and program directions for the President, Congress, and policymakers at the state and local levels. The conference report and recommendations will be designed to prompt public and private sector support for health, independence, dignity, and economic security for older persons today and tomorrow.

The goal of the Mini-Conference on Disability and Aging is to explore and identify concrete public policy steps to address the economic, social, environmental, and personal challenges that disabilities can present for the aging and their families, employers, and communities. Outcomes from the mini-conference will include not only a report summarizing the deliberations, but also a limited number of specific, actionable recommendations that will be presented to the WHCoA Policy Committee. These recommendations will be considered for inclusion in the final WHCoA policy recommendations advanced to the President and Congress.

Format

This one-and-a-half day event begins with several lively, thought-provoking plenary sessions designed to set the stage for participants' critical thinking and exchange about aging and disability. The most important work of the mini-conference will take place during five concurrent policy-making sessions focused on (a) social engagement and productivity; (b) healthy long-term living; (c) economic security regarding planning and choice; (d) technology, universal design and environments; and (e) positive messages. Participants will be assigned to one of the sessions based on their expertise, balancing representation from business/provider, advocacy/consumer, government, and academic-based participants. Recommendations submitted by participants in advance of the meeting will be reviewed and assigned to a policy-making session, and then provided to conference participants upon arrival. During these facilitated sessions, participants will delve into the content of the specific topics, review recommendations submitted in advance by participants, and develop policy recommendations that will be reported out to all mini-conference participants.

About the Participants

Invited participants represent key stakeholders with an interest in aging and disability from both the public and private sectors. Seats are limited.

About the Planning Committee

This mini-conference is being planned and implemented through the cooperation of a planning committee comprised of members representing disability advocacy organizations, aging advocacy organizations, federal agencies, and the private sector. The planning committee includes representatives of AARP, Aetna, the American Association of People with Disabilities, America's Health Insurance Plans, MetLife Disability, the National Council on Independent Living, the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Disability, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, UnumProvident Corporation, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Expectations

Participants in each of the concurrent policy-making sessions will formulate and agree upon no more than three specific, measurable, actionable public policy recommendations with a 5 to 10 year horizon. If more than one recommendation is proposed, they will be ranked in order of priority. The final product of this mini-conference will include a limited number of policy resolutions, spanning the work of all of the policy-making sessions. They will be included as part of an official mini-conference report sent to the WHCoA Policy Committee for consideration.

Conference Location

Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

For Hotel Accommodations, please call the Crystal City Marriott directly: (703) 413-5500.

Important Dates

June 30	Deadline for receipt of registration form
July 7	Deadline for receipt of proposed policy recommendations
July 21-22	Mini-Conference convenes